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(b) *Tier II annuity component.* The tier II annuity component is the portion of the survivor's annuity which is based on an employee's railroad earnings only. The tier II component of an annuity described in this part is a specified percentage of the employee's actual or anticipated tier II annuity component.

Subpart B—The Tier I Annuity Component

§ 228.10 Computation of the tier I annuity component for a widow(er), disabled widow(er), remarried widow(er), and a surviving divorced spouse.

The tier I annuity component for these beneficiaries is generally based on the survivor tier I Primary Insurance Amount (PIA). The survivor tier I PIA is determined in accordance with section 215 of the Social Security Act using the deceased employee's combined railroad and social security earnings after 1950 (or after 1936 if a higher PIA would result) up to the maximum creditable amounts through the year of the employee's death. See part 225 of this chapter. This amount may be further adjusted for certain reductions or deductions as described in §§228.15–228.20 of this part and is subject to the family maximum. See §228.14 of this part.

§ 228.11 Computation of the tier I annuity component of a widow(er) with a child in care, remarried widow(er) with a child in care, or a surviving divorced spouse with a child in care.

The tier I annuity component of a widow(er), remarried widow(er), or a surviving divorced spouse with a child of the employee in his or her care is 75 percent of the PIA computed under §228.10 of this part. The amount may be adjusted for certain reductions and deductions described in §§228.15–228.20 of this part and is subject to the family maximum. See §228.14 of this part.

§ 228.12 Computation of the tier I annuity component of a child's insurance annuity.

The tier I annuity component of a child's insurance annuity is 75 percent of the PIA computed under §228.10 of this part. The amount may be adjusted

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for the family maximum. See §228.14 of this part.

§ 228.13 Computation of the tier I annuity component of a parent's insurance annuity.

The tier I annuity component of a parent's insurance annuity is dependent on whether one or two parents are entitled.

(a) *One parent entitled.* A parent's tier I annuity component is equal to 82½ percent of the PIA computed under §228.10 of this part.

(b) *More than one parent entitled.* A parent's tier I annuity component is equal to 75 percent of the PIA computed under §228.10 of this part.

(c) The amounts computed under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section may be adjusted for the family maximum. See §228.14 of this part.

§ 228.14 Family maximum.

(a) *Family maximum defined.* Under the Social Security Act, the amount of total monthly benefits that can be paid for any month on one person's earnings record is limited. This limited amount is called the family maximum. The family maximum is based on the survivor tier I PIA (see part 225 of this chapter). Generally, if three or more persons are entitled to benefits, their benefits will be adjusted for the family maximum.

(b) *Computation of the family maximum—*(1) *The employee attains age 62, has a period of disability or dies prior to 1979.* The maximum is the amount appearing in column V of the applicable table published each year by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the line on which appears in column IV the primary insurance amount of the insured individual whose compensation is the basis for the benefits payable. Where the total of the survivor benefits exceeds the maximum, the total tier I benefits for each month after 1964 are reduced to the amount appearing in column V. Each survivor's benefit is proportionately reduced, based on the percentage of the PIA used to compute the survivor benefits. However, when any of the persons entitled to benefits on the insured individual's compensation would, except for the limitation described in §404.353(b)

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of title 20 (dealing with the entitlement to more than one child's benefit), be entitled to a child's annuity on the basis of the compensation of one or more other insured individuals, the total benefits payable may not be reduced to less than the smaller of—

(i) The sum of the maximum amounts of benefits payable on the basis of the compensation of all such insured individuals, or

(ii) The last figure in column V of the applicable table published each year by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The “applicable table” refers to the table which is effective for the month the benefit is payable.

(2) *The employee attains age 62, has a period of disability or dies in 1979.* The maximum is computed as follows:

(i) 150 percent of the first \$230 of the individual's primary insurance amount, plus

(ii) 272 percent of the primary insurance amount over \$230 but not over \$332, plus

(iii) 134 percent of the primary insurance amount over \$332 but not over \$433, plus

(iv) 175 percent of the primary insurance amount over \$433.

If the total of this computation is not a multiple of \$0.10, it will be rounded to the next lower multiple of \$0.10.

(3) *The employee attains age 62, or has a period of disability or dies after 1979.* The maximum is computed as in paragraph (b)(2) of this section. However, the dollar amounts shown there will be updated each year after 1979 as average earnings rise. This updating is done by first dividing the average of the total wages for the second year before the individual dies or becomes eligible, by the average of the total wages for 1977. The result of that computation is then multiplied by each dollar amount in the formula in paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Each updated dollar amount will be rounded to the nearer dollar, if the amount is an exact multiple of \$0.50 (but not of \$1), it will be rounded to the next higher \$1. Before November 2 of each calendar year after 1978, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER the formula and updated dollar amounts to be used for determining the

monthly maximum for the following year.

(c) *Special minimum PIA.* Regardless of the method used to compute the primary insurance amount, if the special minimum primary insurance amount described in §404.261 to this title is higher, then the family maximum will be based upon the special minimum primary insurance amount.

§ 228.15 Reduction for age.

(a) *Widow(er), surviving divorced spouse, or remarried widow(er).* The tier I annuity component is reduced 19/40 of 1 percent multiplied by the number of months before the annuitant attains full retirement age (presently age 65) effective with the annuity beginning date for widow(ers) born before 1/2/40. (For widow(ers) born after 1/1/40, see section 216(l) of the Social Security Act.)

(b) *Disabled widow(er), disabled surviving divorced spouse, or disabled remarried widow(er).* The tier I annuity component is reduced for a maximum of 60 months even though the annuity may begin at age 50.

§ 228.16 Adjustments in the age reduction factor (ARF).

Upon the attainment of retirement age, the previously-computed age reduction factor is adjusted to remove those months for which a full annuity was not paid even though the individual was entitled.

§ 228.17 Adjustments to the widow(er)'s, disabled widow(er)'s, surviving divorced spouse's, and remarried widow(er)'s tier I annuity amount.

(a) If the employee died before attaining age 62 and after 1978 and the widow(er), disabled widow(er), remarried widow(er), or surviving divorced spouse is first eligible after 1984, the Board will compute the tier I annuity amount as if the employee had not died but had reached age 62 in the second year after the indexing year (see § 225.2 of this chapter); *provided, however*, that if the employee was entitled to a primary insurance amount based on average monthly wages this section is not applicable. The indexing year is never earlier than the second year before the